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TITLE:

EL ELEMENT

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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To provide an EL element emitting luminescence in high luminance

even at a low voltage, and producible easily at a low cost, and composed of a

luminescent layer having triple-layered structure, wherein each layer

composed of a thin film made of a highly oriented electroluminescent organic

compound molecule having relatively different electronegativity from the other

adjacent layer.

CONSTITUTION: The objective EL element is composed of a triplelayered

luminescent layer 2 and a pair of electrode layers 1, 3 sandwiching

luminescent layer, wherein at least one of the electrode layers is transparent.

The first and the third luminescent layers are made of a monomolecular film (or

its built-up film) composed of electroluminescent organic compounds 4, 6 having

higher electron affinity than the second luminescent layer. The second

luminescent layer is made of a monomolecular film (or its built-up
film)

composed of an electroluminescent organic compound 5 having higher electron-donative property than the first and the third luminescent layers.

EFFECT: It can be produced easily.

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19日本国特許庁(JP)

⑩特許出願公開

四公開特許公報(A)

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Ø発明の名称 EL素子

②特 願 昭59-164238

②出 願 昭59(1984)8月7日

の発明者 江 ロの発明者 河田

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明細塵

1. 発明の名称

EL素子

⑪出 願

少代

2. 特許請求の範囲

3. 発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、 電気的 な発光、すなわち B L を用いた B L 素子に関し、 更に詳しくは、発光層が 3 層構造からなり、 各々の層が開接する他の層に対し

て相対的に電気験性度が異なる少なくとも1種の電気的発光性有機化合物を、高秩序の分子配向性をもって配列させた砂膜からなるBL来子に関する

(従来の技術)

従来のBL案子は、Mn あるいはCu またはRe F₅ (Re : 希上知イオン) 夢を付活剤として含む Zn S を発光例 材とする発光層からなるものであり、 鉄発光層の基本構造の違いにより粉末型 B L と趣興型 B L に火きく構造的に分類される。

特性が良くなる。しかし、酸粉末型ELの場合 は、発光母材が不直続の粉末であるため、発光層 を薄くすると、発光層中にピンホールが生じ易 く、層厚を稼くすることが困難であり、従って十 分な師庇特性が得られないという大きな欠点を 持っている。近時においても、鉄粉末型ELの発 光層内にファ化ピニリデン系重合体から成る中間 誘電体層を配置した改良型業子が、特開収58-172891号公報に示されているが、未だ発光 輝度、消費電力等に十分な性能を得るにいたって いない。一方、最近、有機材料の化学構造や高次 株益を飼御して、新しくオプティカルおよびエレ クトロニクス用材料とする研究開発が活発に行な われ、BC案子、圧電性案子、無電性案子、非線 計光学素子、強誘電性液晶等、金属、無限材料に 比肩し得るか、またはそれらを凌乱する有級材料 が発表されている。このように、無機物を夜ぐ新 しい機能業材としての機能性有機材料の明発が契 望される中で、分子内に親水基と疎水基を持つア ントラセン誘導体やピレン誘導体の単分子層の果

記部1および第3の発光層が、第2の発光層に対して相対的に電子受容性の少なくとも1種の電気の発光性有機化合物からなる単分子脱またはその果様膜からなり、且つ第2の発光層が第1および第3の発光層に対して相対的に電子供与性の少なくとも1種の電気的発光性有機化合物からなる単分子脱またはその果様膜からなることを特徴とする上記EL案子である。

 税限を電視基板上に形成したBL素子が特別昭 52-355875公権に提案されている。しか し、それらのBL素子は、その輝度、消費電力 等、現実のBL素子として十分な性値を得るに 至っておらず、型に、缺有級BL素子の場合、 キャリア電子あるいはホールの密度が非常に小さ く、キャリアの再結合等による機能分子の動物で さないものである。

(発明の開示)

従って、本発明の目的は、上述のような従来技術の欠点を解消して、低電圧駆動でも十分輝度の高い発光が得られ、安価で、且つ製造が容易なE L業子を提供することである。

上記本発明の目的は、EL案子の発光層を、特定の材料を組合せて、且つ特定の構成に形成することにより速収された。

すなわち、本発明は、3層積層構造の発光層と、鉄発光層を挟持する少なくとも1層が透明である2層の電振器からなるBL実子において、上

館体、 有機精土知銷体およびこれらの化合物の誘導体等を挙げることができる。 更に上記化合物に対して電子受容体または電子供与体となり得る 化合物としては、 前記以外の復業環式化合物およびそれらの誘導体、 労否族アミンおよび芳香族ポリアミン、 キノン構造をもつ化合物、テトラシアノキノジメタンおよびテトラシアノエチレン等を挙げることができる。

本発明において、特に利用な化合物は、上記の如きで気的発光性化合物を必要に応じて公知の方法で化学的に修飾し、その構造中に少なくとも1個の報水性部分と少なくとも1個の親水性部分(これらはいずれも相対的な意味においてである。)を併有させるようにした化合物であり、例えば下記の一般式(I)で汲わされる化合物およびその他の化合物を包含する。

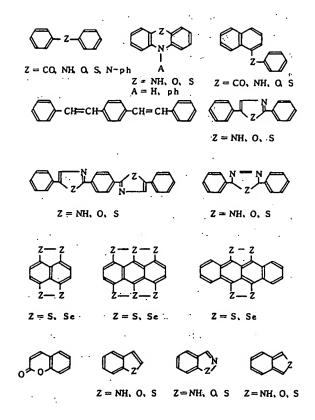
$$[.(X - R_I)_m Z]_n - \phi - R_L \qquad (I)$$

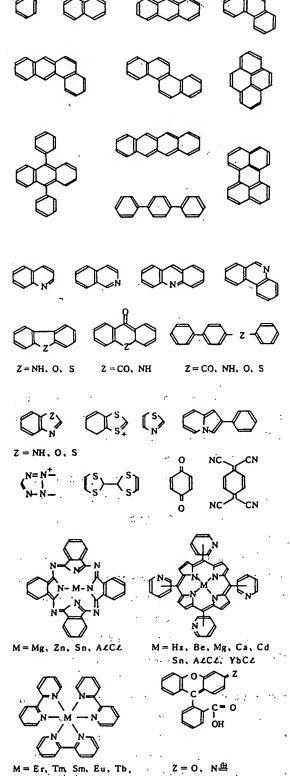
上記式中における X は、水米原子、ハロゲン原子、アルコキシ族、アルキルエーテル基、ニトロ基:カルボキシルル、スルホン酸基、リン酸基、

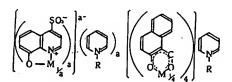
ケイ酸基、第1~3アミノ基;これらの金属塩、 1~3級アミン塩、酸塩;エステル茲、スルホア ミド茲、アミド茲、イミノ茲、 4 級アミノ茲およ びそれらの塩、水酸盐等であり;Riは皮楽数4~ 30、好ましくは10~25個のアルキル盐、好 ましくは直鎖状アルキル基であり;皿は1または 2、 nは1~4の整数であり; 2は直接結合また $H_2 = 0 - ... - S - ... - N R_3 ... - C H_2 N R_3 - ...$ - S O, N R, 、 - C O - 、 - C O O - 等の如き巡航 茲 (Rgは水素原子、アルキル苺、アリール等の任 **竜の型換基である)であり; ゆは技に例示する如** き電場発光性化合物の残器であり;RaはXと同様 に、水素原子またはその他の任意の登換店であり ; 1個または複数のX、 oおよびR2のうち少なく とも1個は親水性部分であり、且つ少なくとも1 個は疎水性部分である。

一般式 (I) の化合物のゆとして好ましいものおよびその他の化合物を例示すれば、以下の通りである。

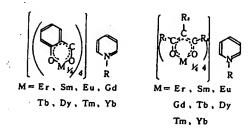
·(以下余白)







M=A4. Ga. Ir. Ta. a=3
 M=Er. Sm. Eu
 M=Zn. Cd. Mg. pb. a=2
 Gd. Tb. Dy
 Tm. Yb



$$Z \longrightarrow CH - CH \longrightarrow CH - Z \longrightarrow Ha \ell^{-1}$$

$$Z = 0, 5, Se \ 0 \le p \le 2$$

供与性基を有するもの、あるいは窒素へテロ 収化合物が主たるものであり、また電子受容性のものとしては、カルボニル基、スルホニル基、ニトロ 茲、第4級アミノ茲等の電子吸引性基を有する化合物が主たるものである。このような発光性化合物は本発明において、それぞれの発光層においては単独または複数の混合物として使用することができる。

以上の如き発光性化合物は、本発明における各々の発光層において単独でも混合物としても使用できる。なお、これらの化合物は好ましい化合物の例示であって、同一目的が達成される限り、他の誘導体または他の化合物でも良いのは当然である。

本発明においては、上記の如き発光性化合物を表 それらの電気的陰性度に応じて、本発明の発光性化合を 子の第1~第3の発光層に分けて使用して、発見 としたことを特徴として、いれるの発 を3層の積層構造したことを特徴として、れるの発光性化合物は、は複数するから、1種のまたは複なす。れて 短気と性度が異なるから、1種のまたとび成れるの を第1おおびが3の発光をおはは、 の発光性化合物として採用したとの発光性化の の異なるもとして採用したとの発光に放 の異なるとして選択すれば良い。このとしたれ のの異なるとして選択すれば良い。このとして のの異なるとして のの異なるとして が1~第3級アミノ 基等の は、アルコキシ
は、アルキルエーテル

場合は、これらの不透明電極も、従来公知のものでよく、一般的且つ好ましいものは、厚さが約0・1~0・3μmのアルミニウム、銀、金ので、銀の形状は、板状、ベルト状、円筒状等任意の形状は、板状、ベルト状、円筒状等を定めている。また、透明電板の厚さは、約0・01~0・2μm程度が好ましく、この範囲以下の厚さでは、装子自体の物理的強度や電気的性質が不十分となり、また上記範囲以上の厚さでは透明性や軽量性、小型性等に周期が生じるおそれがある。

本発明のEL来子は、上記の如き2層の電極層の間に、放送の如き相対的に電気陰性度の異なる電気的発光性化合物を別々に用いて3層からなる発光層を形成することにより得られるものであり、形成された3層構造の発光層を構成する分子が、それぞれ高次序の分子配向性をもって配列した単分子関あるいはその米積膜であることを特徴としている。

本苑明において、このような単分子膜あるいは

その異様限を形成する方法として、特に好ましい 方法は、ラングミュア・プロジェット法(LB 法)である。このLB法は、分子内に現水性茲と 疎水性 描とを有する 構造の分子において、 阿者の パランス(阿親媒性のパランス)が適度に保たれ ているとき、分子は水面上で、親水性基を下に向 けて単分子の層になることを利用して、単分子段 またはその累積膜を形成する方法である。具体的 には水層上に展開した単分子膜が、水相上を自由 に拡散して広がりすぎないように、仕切板(また は浮子)を設けて展開面積を制限して腹物質の染 合状態を制御し、表面圧を徐々に上昇させ、単分 子睨あるいはその果積膜の製造に適する衷面圧を 設定する。この裏面圧を維持しながら静かに積浄 な基板を垂直に上昇または降下させることによ り、単分子膜が拡板上に移しとられる。単分子膜 は以上で製造されるが、単分子膜の果積膜は前記 の操作を繰り返すことにより所望の累積度の累積 腹として形成される。

単分子膜を基板上に移すには、上述した垂直投

個に向いた異粒股は 2 型膜と呼ばれる。 回転円筒法は、円筒法の基体水面上を回転させて単分子股を基体を固に移しとる方法である。 単分子 映を基板上に移す方法は、 これらに限定されるわけでなく、 即ち、 大面積基板を用いる時には、 基板で ロールから水層中に 基板を押し出していく 方法など あんの向きは 原則であり、 基板の表面処理等によって変えることができる。

本発明のBL案子は、前途の如き発光層形成用 材料を好ましくは上途の如きLB法により、前途 の如き2層の電板層の間にそれぞれ電気段性度の 異なる化合物から、3層構造として形成すること によって得られるものである。

従来の技術の項で述べた通り、LB法により BL業子を形成することは公知であるが、該公知 の方法では、十分な性能のBL案子が得られず、 本発明者は、超々研究の結果、発光層を3 恐祸遊 とし、それぞれの発光層を前述の如き電気险性度、 の異なる化合物を用いて単分子図あるいはその果 後法の値、水平付滑法、回転円筒法などの方法に よっても可能である。水平村若法は茲板を水面に 水平に接触させて移しとる方法で、回転円筒法 は、円筒型の基体を水面上を回転させて単分子段 を蓝体設面に移しとる方法である。前述した垂直 侵 敬 法 で は 、 安 前 が 似 木 性 の 基 板 を 木 面 を 積 切 る 方向に水中から引き上げると分子の親水性基が茲 板個に向いた単分子段が拡仮上に形成される。前 **並のように盐板を止下させると、各行程ごとに 1** 枚ずつ単分子腹が爪なっていく。成腹分子の向き が引き上げ行程と投資行程で逆になるので、この 方法によると各胎川は分子の親水性苗と親水性 苗、分子の疎水性粘と碳水性基が向かい合うY型 腹が形成される。それに対し、水平竹造法は、茲 版を水面に水平に接着させて移しとる方法で、分 子の疎水性基が基版側に向いた単分子膜が基板上 に形成される。この方法では、単分子段を異称し ても、成膜分子の向きの交代はなく、全ての層に おいて、疎水性基が基板側に向いたX型膜が形成 される。:反対に全ての間において親木性基が茲板

接膜として形成することにより、従来技術のEL 案子の性値が著しく向上することを知見したもの である。

「本苑明の1つの重要な態様は、各々の発光層が 前記発光性材料からなる単分子段である態様であ る。この態様のEL裏子は、まず最初に、中間層 として形成すべき郊2層に対して相対的に電子受 容性である材料を3. 適当な有機溶剤、例えばクロ ロホルム、ジクロロメタン、ジクロロエタン等中 に約10°~10²至量光程度の濃度に溶解し、鉄路 液を、各種の金属イオンを含有してもよい適当な pH(例えば、pH的1~8)の水相上に展開させ、 溶剤を蒸発除去して単分子膜を形成し、前述の如 くのLB法で、一方の電板基板上に移し取って節 1層とし、十分に乾燥し、次いで、このように形 成した第1層に対して相対的に電子供与性である 材料を、同様にして単分子膜として、その第1の 発光層の裏面に移しとって第2層とし、鉄第2層 の表面に、上記と同様にして第2層に対して相対 的に、電子受容性の化合物から第3層を形成

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し、 最後に、 例えばアルミニウム、 観、 金等の 電極材料を、 好ましく は慈若等により 悲迎 させて 背面電極層を形成する ことによって得られる。

このようにして得られたEL来子の3 層の単分子膜からなる発光層の厚さは、使用した材料の程類によって異なるが、一般的には約0.01~1 μ皿の厚さが好適である。

また、別の重要な窓様は、本発明のEL素子の発光層を構成する3層のうち少なくとも一層、好ましくは3層ともが、上記の単分子膜の累積膜である窓様である。酸窓様は、前記のLB法を用いることにより、上記の如き単分子膜を積々の方法で必要な層数まで累積することによって得られる。

このようにして得られるBL案子の発光層の厚さ、すなわち単分子殴の果積数は、任意に変更することができるが、本発明においては、3 層の合計で約4~400の果積数が好適である。

なお、基板として使用する一方の電板層あるい は両方の電板層と発光層との接着は、LB法にお

できるため、比較的耐熱性のない発光線能材料も 使用することができるという利点がある。

更に、従来技術では、発光性が使れているが、 成既性や段強度が不十分な材料は寝賀上使用でき なかったが、本発明においては、このような成設 性や段強度が劣るが、発光性に優れた材料でも、 少なくとも1 層に成版性に優れた材料を使用する ことによって、発光性、成膜性および吸強度のい いては十分に強関なものであり、発光層が剝離したり剝落したりすることはないが、接着力を殺強化する目的で、基板投資をあらかじめ処理しておいたり、あるいは基仮と発光層との間に適当なた材料の優別であるいは、発光層の形成用分子膜のを砂速度あるいは、引入子膜の表面圧等の種々の条件を関節によっても接着力を強化することができる。

以上の如くして形成されたBL案子は、そのままでは空気中の役気や酸素の影響でその性能が劣化することがあるので、従来公知の手段で耐湿、耐酸素性の密封構造とするのが望ましい。

以上の如き本処明のEL案子は、その発光層の構造が、超離設であり、且つBL案子の作動上必要な高度の分子秩序性と機能を有しており、優れた発光性能を有するものである。また、製造面では、大面積にわたって、発光層の厚さが均一で、欠陥のないEL素子とすることができ、また常温、常圧またはそれに近い条件で作成することが

ずれもが優れた発光層を得ることができる。

以上の本発明のEL N子は、その発光層に好適な電界等の電気エネルギーが作用するように、電極層間に、交流またはパルスあるいは直流電流等の電気エネルギーを印加することにより、優れたEL 発光を示すものである。

次に実施例をあげて本発明を更に具体的に説明 する。なお、文中部とあるのは重量基準である。 変施例 1

50 mm角のガラス板の裏面上にスパッタリンダ 法により殴俘 1 5 0 0 AのITO層を蒸着して、 透明で概を形成した。この成膜基板を充分洗浄 後、Joyce - Loebel社製のLangenir - Trough 4 の pH 6 . 5 に調整された水相中に投資した。次に、



(C/b) 4 CONSID

. .

В

上記化合物 A および B を 1 : 1 のモル比で、クロロホルムに溶かした(1 0⁻³ mol / 2)後、上記

特別昭61-43689 (7)

水相上に展開させた。溶媒のクロロホルムを 旅発 除去 快、 装面 圧を 高 め て (30 d y n e / c =)、 上 記 の 混合分子を 殴状に 析出させた。 その 快、 変 極 な から、 は 成 殴 基 板 を 、 水 面 を 極 グ る 方 向 に が か に 上 下 さ せ (上 下 速 度 2 c = / a i a)、 混合 単 分 子 殴 を 甚 板 上 に 移 し 取 り 、 単 分 子 殴 の み、 3、 5、 10 およ び 15 層 に 累 核 し た 年 分 子 累 後 段 を 作 成 し た。 こ の 累 積 行 程 に お い 口 以 上 な 返 を 水 槽 か ら 引 き あ げ る 都 度、 30 分 間 以 上 な 置 し て 基 板 に 付 着 し て い る 水 分 を 派 免除 去 し た。

. 次に、 鉄水相裏面に狭った上記器合単分子限を 完全に取り除き、 新たにクロロホルムに溶解 (1 0⁻³ mol / 2) した



C

を設水相上に展開した。上記と同じ方法により、 すでに作成された単分子限および単分子累積膜表

上記の本発明のEL業子は、従来例のZnSを 発光母体としたEL業子と比較し、駆助礼圧が低く、発光輝度特性の良いEL業子であった。 比較例1

実施例 1 において、発光性化合物として化合物 A のみを使用し、且つ単一層にしたことを除いて、他は実施例 1 と同様にして比較用の E L 猴子を得、且つ実施例 1 と同様に評価した。評価結果は第 1 安に示した。

第 1 表

X B	4				
累表	在 度		<u>累助電圧</u>	種度	正说密度
1 層:	2 /2	3 №		<u>(Ft-L)</u>	(<u>mA/cm²)</u>
i	1	1	5 V . 4 0 0 H z	3	0.16
3	2	3	107.400Hz	11	0.13
5	2	5	10V.400Hz	20	0.11
10	2	10	107.400Hz	18	0.08
l 5	2	1 5	10V.400Hz	17	0.07

<u>比較例 1</u>

累積度

平度、上記水川火流の単分子版を完全に除去し、上記第1層の形成に使用した同一材料を同一 造成で同様な方法で上記第2層の表面に1層の単 分子版および3、5、10、15層に累積して単 分子果積版とし、第3層とした。

3	10V,400Hz	以以下	0.21
8	10V,400Hz	以以下	0.1
1 2	10V.400Hz	1以下	0.1
22	107,400Hz	以下	0.09
3.2	10V.400Hz	山山下	0.08

突施例2

実施例 1 における化合物 A、Bおよび C に代えて、下記化合物 D、 E および F を使用し、

E

他は実施例1と同様にして、本発明のEL素子(但し、各々の最近数は5、2、5)を初、実施例1と同一条件で評価したところ、電放密度0.13mA/cm'で、輝度(Ft-L)は18であった。

4.図面の簡単な説明

第1図は、従来技術のLB法によるEL素子を 図解的に示したものであり、第2図は、本発明の EL素子を図解的に示したものであり、第3図は

特開昭61-43689 (8)

本発明のBL紫子の断面を図解的に示したもので

1;透明冗伪

2; 発光層

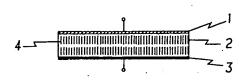
3;背面电板

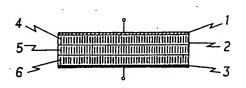
4: 発光性化合物

5; 强光性化合物

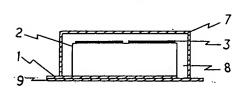
9; ガラス板

第 1 図





第 3 図



-656-

PTO 05-0020

EL COMPONENT [EL soshi]

Ken Eguchi, et al.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Washington, D.C. October 2004

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INVENTORS	(72):	EGUCHI, KEN; KAWADA, HARUKI; NISHIMURA, Y.
APPLICANT	(71):	CANON INC.
TITLE	(54):	EL COMPONENT
FOREIGN TITLE	(54A):	EL SOSHI

1. Title of the Invention

EL COMPONENT

2. Claim

An EL component consisting of a luminescent layer having a 3-layer structure and of 2 electrode layers, at least one of which is transparent, that sandwich said luminescent layer

characterized by said first and third luminescent layers consisting of monomolecular films or built-up films thereof that are made up of at least 1 type of electroluminescent organic compound and that are relatively electron acceptive to the second luminescent layer and also characterized by the second luminescent layer consisting of a monomolecular film or a built-up film thereof that is made up of at least 1 type of electroluminescent organic compound and that is relatively electron donative to the first and third luminescent layers.

3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention (Field of Industrial Application)

The present invention pertains to EL components in which electroluminescence, EL, is utilized, specifically to EL components in which the light emitting layers have 3-layer structures and in which each of the layers consists of a thin film that is obtained by arranging at least 1 type of electroluminescent organic component having relatively different electronegativity from that of the adjacent layer(s) with a high molecular orientational order.

^{*} Numbers in the margin indicate pagination of the foreign text.

(Related Art)

Conventional EL components consist of a luminescent layer in which ZnN is the luminescent base material and which contains Mn, Cu, ReF₃ (Re = rare-earth ions), etc. as an activator agent, and they are roughly classified into powder-type EL and thin-film-type EL depending on the difference in the basic structure of said luminescent layer.

Among practically utilized components, thin-film EL forms a luminescent layer by vapor depositing a luminescent base material onto a substrate. Therefore, it has shortcomings in that it is difficult to manufacture large-area components and in that the manufacturing costs are extremely high. For this reason, powder-type EL, which is the most appropriate for mass production, which only costs a fraction of the thin-film-type component, and which has a luminescent base, that is to say ZnS dispersed in an organic binder, has attracted attention. In general, the luminescent characteristics in electroluminescence improve as the /650. thickness of the luminescent layer is increased. However, in the case of said powder-type EL, since the luminescent base material is a discontinuous powder, a reduction in the luminescent layer makes it likely for pinholes to be caused in the luminescent layer, and therefore, it is difficult to reduce the layer's thickness. Therefore, there is a major shortcoming in that sufficient brightness characteristics cannot be achieved. Recently, an improved component in which an intermediate dielectric layer consisting of a vinylidene-fluoride-type polymer is provided in the luminescent layer of said power-type EL was introduced in Kokai No.58-172891, but it still has not been possible to obtain sufficient performance in terms of luminescent brightness, power

consumption, etc. Meanwhile, there has been active research and development in recent years in which organic materials are being turned into new optical or electronic materials by controlling their chemical structures or higher-order structures, and organic materials that are comparable to or surpass EC components, piezoelectric components, pyroelectric components, nonlinear optical components, ferroelectric liquid crystals, metals, and inorganic materials have been announced. While the development of functional organic materials as new functional materials that surpass inorganic substances are in demand in this manner, an EL component has been suggested in Kokai No.52-35587 in which a built-up film that consists of monolayers of an anthracene derivative or pyrene derivative containing hydrophilic groups and hydrophobic groups within the molecules is formed on the electrode substrate. However, these EL components have not achieved sufficient performance as practical EL components in terms of brightness, power consumption, etc. Moreover, in the case of said organic EL component, the density of the carrier electrons or holes is very low and the excitation probability of the functional molecules caused by recombination of carriers becomes very small. Therefore, efficient luminescence cannot be expected.

(Disclosure of Invention)

Therefore, the purpose of the present invention is to solve the above shortcomings of the conventional technique and to supply EL components with which luminescence with sufficient brightness can be achieved even at low voltage and which are inexpensive and easy to manufacture.

In other words, with respect to EL components that consist of a luminescent layer having a 3-layer structure and of 2 electrode layers,

at least one of which is transparent, that sandwich said luminescent layer, the present invention is an EL component characterized by said first and third luminescent layers consisting of monomolecular films or built-up films thereof that are made up of at least 1 type of electroluminescent organic compound and that are relatively electron acceptive to the second luminescent layer and also characterized by the second luminescent layer consisting of a monomolecular film or a built-up film thereof that is made up of at least 1 type of electroluminescent organic compound and that is relatively electron donative to the first and third luminescent layers.

The present invention will be explained in detail below. An electroluminescent organic compound that is utilized in the present invention and that principally characterizes the present invention is an electrically excitable compound that has a high luminescence quantum efficiency and that also has a π electron system that is susceptible to external perturbation. Basic examples are the following: condensed polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; p-terphenyl; 2,5- diphenyloxazole; 1,4-bis(2-methylstyryl)-benzene; xanthine; coumarin; acridine; cyanine pigments; benzophenone; phthalocyanine and its metal complexes; porphyrin and its metal complexes; 8-hydroxyquinoline and its metal complexes; organic ruthenium complexes; organic rare-earth complexes; and derivatives of these compounds. Moreover, as compounds that can be electron acceptive or electron donative to the above compounds, the following can be mentioned: heterocyclic compounds other than those mentioned earlier and their derivatives; aromatic amines and aromatic polyamines; compounds

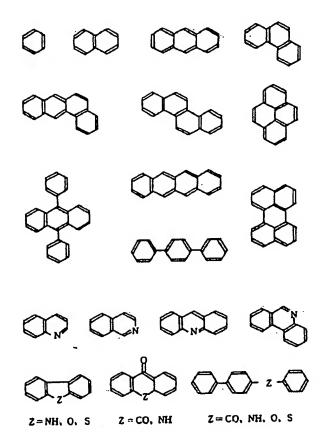
having quinone structures; tetracyano quionodimethane; and tetracyanoethylene.

A compound that is particularly useful in the present invention is a compound in which an electroluminescent compound, such as those mentioned earlier, is chemically modified by a commonly known method and in which at least one hydrophobic portion and at least one hydrophilic portion (in the relative sense of the words) are combined in the structure. Examples include the compound expressed by the following general formula (I) and other compounds.

$$[(X-R\ell)_m Z]_n - \phi - R_2 \tag{I}$$

In the above formula, X is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkoxy group, an alkyl ether group, a nitro group, a carboxyl group, a sulfate group, a phosphate group, a silicate group, a first ~ third amino /65 group, a metal salt thereof, a primary ~ tertiary amine salt, an acid salt, an ester group, a sulfonamide group, an amide group, an imino group, a quaternary amino group, a salt thereof, or a hydroxyl group, etc. R_r is an alkyl group, preferably a straight-chain alkyl group, containing $4 \sim 30$, preferably $10 \sim 25$, carbons. m is an integer that is 1 or 2. Z is a direct link or a linking group such as -0-, -S-, $-NR_3$, $-CH_2NR_3-$, $-SO_2NR_3$, -CO-, -COO-, etc. (R_3 is an optional substituent such as a hydrogen atom, alkyl group, aryl, etc.) ϕ is the residue of an electroluminescent compound, an example of which will be mentioned later. R_2 is, in the same manner as X, a hydrogen atom or another optional substituent. At least one of the 1 or multiple Xs, ϕ , and R_2 is a hydrophilic portion and at least one of them is a hydrophobic portion.

The following are preferred compounds and other compounds that can be used as φ of the compound of the general formula (I).



M=Er, Tm, Sm, Eu, Tb, Z=O、N里 Ru

M=A4. Ga, Ir, Ta, a=3 M=Er, Sm, Eu
M=Zn, Cd, Mg, pb, a=2 Gd, Tb, Dy
Tm, Yb

$$Z = 0, S, Se 0 \le p \le 2$$
Half

Luminescent compounds such as those mentioned above can be used alone or in combination in each of the luminescent layers of the present invention. These compounds are simply examples of the preferred compounds, and other derivatives or compounds may naturally be utilized instead as long as the above purpose can be achieved.

The present invention is characterized in that the luminescent layer is made to have a 3-layer structure by dividing luminescent compounds such as those mentioned earlier into first ~ third luminescent layers of the EL component of the present invention in accordance with their electronegativities. In other words, the luminescent compounds such as

when one or multiple types of said compounds are utilized as the luminescent compounds for forming the first and third luminescent layers, a luminescent compound that has a different electronegativity from those of the above luminescent compounds being utilized should be selected as the compound for forming the second luminescent layer. From among such luminescent compounds, compounds that are particularly preferred in terms of their electron donation properties are the following: those containing primary tertiary amino groups, hydroxyl groups, alkoxy groups, alkyl ether groups, etc.; and nitrogen-heterocyclic compounds. As for electron acceptive compounds, they are primarily compounds containing electron attractive groups, such as carbonyl groups, sulfonyl groups, nitro groups, quaternary amino groups, etc. These luminescent compounds can be utilized alone or in combination in each of the luminescent layers of the present invention.

The other elements, that is to say, the two electrode layers that form the EL component of the present invention, sandwich the luminescent layer, and any of the conventionally known articles can be utilized, although at least one of the layers is required to be transparent. As the transparent electrode, any target transparent electrode layer can be utilized in the same manner as in the past. A preferred example is an article obtained by coating the entire surface of a transparent film or sheet consisting of glass, a transparent synthetic resin such as polymethylmethacrylate or polyester, etc. with a transparent conductive material such as indium oxide, tin oxide, indium-tin-oxide (ITO), etc. in a pattern. When utilizing an opaque electrode for one of the sides, it may also be a conventionally known article. A common and preferred

example is an about 0.1 ~ 0.3µm-thick film having aluminum, silver, gold, etc. vapor deposited on it. Moreover, the shape of the transparent electrode or opaque electrode may be an optional shape such as a sheet shape, belt shape, cylinder shape, etc. and can be selected depending on the usage. As for the thickness of the transparent electrode, about 0.01 ~ 0.2µm is preferred. If the thickness is below this range, the physical strength and electrical properties of the component itself will be insufficient, and if the thickness is above said range, problems may arise in terms of transparency, lightweight, and compactness.

An EL component of the present invention is obtained by forming a luminescent layer, which consists of 3 layers, between the above two electrode layers by separately utilizing electroluminescent compounds having relatively different electronegativities as mentioned earlier. It is characterized in that the formed 3-layer luminescent layer consists of monomolecular films, or built-up films thereof, in which the molecules are arranged with a high molecular orientational order.

In the present invention, a method that is particularly preferred for the formation of such monomolecular films or built-up films /653 thereof is a Langmure-Blodgett technique (LB technique). This LB technique is a method in which a monomolecular film or a built-up film thereof is formed by utilizing the fact that, when the balance between hydrophilicity and hydrophobicity is maintained at an appropriate level in molecules containing hydrophilic groups and hydrophobic groups in their structures, the molecules form a monomolecular layer by allowing the hydrophobic groups to face downward on the liquid surface. Concretely, partitions (or floats) are provided in order to restrict the development area and to control

the aggregation state of the film substance so that the monomolecular film provided on the water layer will not spread too much by freely expanding on the water phase. Also, the surface pressure is gradually increased and a surface pressure that is appropriate for the manufacture of the monomolecular film, or the built-up film thereof, is set. By quietly vertically lifting or lowering a clean substrate while maintaining this surface pressure, the monomolecular film becomes transferred onto the substrate. A monomolecular film is produced in this manner, and a built-up film consisting of monomolecular films is formed by repeating said procedure until a desired degree of accumulation is achieved.

For the transfer of a monomolecular film onto a substrate, a method such as a horizontal attachment technique or a rotating cylinder technique may be utilized instead of the above-mentioned vertical immersion technique. The horizontal attachment technique is a method in which the transfer is achieved by allowing the substrate to horizontally contact the liquid surface. The rotating cylinder technique is a method in which a cylindrical substrate is rotated on the liquid surface in order to transfer a monomolecular film onto the substrate surface. According to the above-mentioned vertical immersion method, a substrate that has a hydrophilic surface is pulled up from inside a liquid in the direction that crosses the liquid surface and as a result, a monomolecular film in which the hydrophilic groups of the molecules are facing toward the substrate side is formed. If the substrate is moved vertically as mentioned earlier, one monomolecular film becomes overlapped in each process. Since the directions of the molecules of the formed films are opposite in a pull-up process and an immersion process, a Y-type film, in which the

molecules' hydrophilic groups face each other and the molecules' hydrophobic groups face each other between the layers, is formed in this method. As opposed to this, the horizontal attachment technique is a method in which the transfer is achieved by allowing a substrate to horizontally contact the liquid surface, and a monomolecular film in which the hydrophobic groups of the molecules face the substrate side is formed on the substrate. In this method, the direction of the molecules of the formed film does not alternate and an X-type film, in which the hydrophobic groups face the substrate side on all layers, is formed. Conversely, a built-up film in which hydrophilic groups face the substrate side in all layers is called a Z-type film. A rotating cylinder technique is a method in which a monomolecular film is transferred onto the substrate surface by allowing a cylindrical substrate to rotate on a liquid surface. The method for transferring a monomolecular film onto a substrate is not limited to this, and when utilizing a large-area substrate, a method in which the substrate is pushed out from a substrate roll into a liquid layer can be utilized instead. In addition, the above-described directions of hydrophilic groups and hydrophobic groups with respect to the substrate are the general rule and may be altered depending on the surface treatment, etc. of the substrate.

An EL component of the present invention is obtained by forming a 3-layer structure between the above-described 2 electrode layers by preferably the above-described LB technique by using the above-described materials for luminescent layer formation based on the electronegativity differences of the compounds.

As described in the Related Art section, it is widely known that

EL components can be formed by the LB technique. However, said commonly known method cannot provide EL components capable of sufficient performances. As a result of various studies, the present inventors discovered that the performances of the EL components of the conventional technique can be significantly improved by allowing the luminescent layer to have a 3-layer structure and by forming each luminescent layer as a monomolecular film, or a built-up film thereof, by utilizing compounds having different electronegativities as described earlier.

One of the important aspects of the present invention is that each of the luminescent layers is a monomolecular film that consists of one of said luminescent materials. Such an EL component is obtained as follows. First, a material that is relatively electron acceptive to the second layer, which will be formed as the intermediate layer, is first dissolved in an appropriate organic solvent, such as chloroform, dichloromethane, dichloroethane, etc., at a density of about $10^{-4} \sim 10^{-2} M$. This solution is poured onto an aqueous phase that has an appropriate pH (e.g. about pH 1 ~ 8) and that may contain various types of metal ions, and the solvent is removed by means of evaporation in order to form a monomolecular film. This is transferred onto one electrode substrate as a first layer by the above LB technique and is thoroughly dried. Next, a material that is relatively electron donative to the thus-formed first layer is transferred onto the surface of the first luminescent layer as a monomolecular film in the same manner and is made to be a second layer. In the same manner, a third layer is formed by using a compound that is relatively electron receptive to the second layer. Lastly, an electrode material, such as aluminum, silver, gold, etc., is deposited by means of preferably vapor

deposition in order to form a back-side electrode layer.

It is preferred in general that the thickness of the thus-obtained EL component's luminescent layer consisting of 3 layers of monomolecular films be about 0.01 ~ 1 μ m, although it varies depending on the types of the used materials.

Another important aspect is that at least one, preferably all three, of the layers that make up the luminescent layer of an EL component of the present invention be a built-up film consisting of the above monomolecular films. Said aspect is achieved by building up the above-mentioned monomolecular films by various methods until the necessary number of layers is achieved by using said LB technique.

The thickness, that is to say the cumulative number of monomolecular films, of the thus-obtained luminescent layer of an EL component can be changed optionally. In the present invention, a cumulative number of about 4 ~ 400 is suitable as the total of the 3 layers.

Moreover, the adhesion between the luminescent layer and one electrode layer or both electrode layers utilized as substrates is sufficiently firm and the luminescent layer will not separate or fall off. However, in order to increase the adhesion, it is permissible to treat the substrate surfaces in advance or to provide an adequate adhesive layer between the substrates and the luminescent layer. Furthermore, the adhesion can be increased also by controlling various conditions, such as the materials for forming the luminescent layer, the pH, ion type, and temperature of the used aqueous layer, the transfer speed of monomolecular films, the surface pressure, etc. of the monomolecular films, etc.

If unaltered, the performances of a thus-formed EL component sometimes deteriorate due to the moisture and oxygen in air. Therefore, it is desirable that a moisture-resistant and oxygen-resistant sealed structure be provided by a conventionally known means.

Such EL component of the present invention has a luminescent layer structure that consists of an ultra-thin film and is provided with a high molecular order and high-level performances that are necessary for the operation of the EL component. Therefore, superb luminescence performance is exhibited. Moreover, from the perspective of manufacture, it is possible to make a flawless EL component in which the thickness of the luminescent layer is the same throughout a large area. Moreover, since it can be made at room temperature and normal pressures, or under similar conditions, there is an advantage in that even a luminescent material with a relatively small heat resistance can be utilized.

Furthermore, as illustrated in Fig. 1, unlike the luminescent layer of the conventional technique that consists of a single layer, the luminescent layer of an EL component of the present invention is a laminate of the first through third luminescent layers with uniform interfaces provided between them as illustrated in Fig. 2. Therefore, it is very easy for various mutual actions to take place among the 3 layers having different electronegativities, and excellent luminescence performances that cannot be achieved by the conventional technique can be exhibited. In other words, by variously changing the electronegativity differences among the first through third luminescent layers, it is possible to increase the luminescence intensity and/or to optionally change the luminescence color. It is also possible to substantially extend the usable

life.

Moreover, the conventional technique does not allow practical use of materials that are excellent in luminosity but are insufficient in film formability and/or film strength. According to the present invention, however, a luminescent layer that is excellent in all of luminosity, film formability, and film strength can be achieved by utilizing even such materials that have excellent luminosity and insufficient film formability and/or film strength as long as a material with excellent film formability is utilized for at least one of the layers.

The above-mentioned EL component of the present invention exhibits excellent EL luminescence by applying electric energy of alternate, pulsed, or direct currents between the electrode layers so that electric energy of an appropriate electric field will act on the luminescent layer.

Next, the present invention will be explained more concretely based on working examples. In the sentences, "part" refers to the weight standard.

Working Example 1

1500Å-thick ITO layers were vapor deposited onto the surfaces of 50mm-square glass sheets by means of a sputtering technique in order to form transparent electrodes. After thoroughly rinsing these substrates having film formations, they were immersed into an aqueous phase in a Langmuir-Trough 4 made by Joyce-Loebel Co. that had been adjusted to pH6.5.



Next, after dissolving the above compounds, A and B, in chloroform (10^{-3}mol/l) at a 1:1 mol ratio, this solution was poured onto the /655 above aqueous phase. After removing the solvent chloroform by means of evaporation, the surface pressure was increased (30dyne/cm) in order to deposit the above mixed molecules as a film. After that, said substrates having film formations were gently moved up and down in the direction in which they crossed the liquid surface (vertical movement velocity = 2cm/min), and the mixed monomolecular film was transferred onto the substrates. In this manner, a monomolecular film alone and built-up monomolecular films consisting of the accumulations of 3, 5, 10, and 15 layers were prepared. In these accumulation processes, the substrates were left untouched for 30 minutes or longer after being pulled out of the liquid tank in order to remove the moisture attached to the substrates through evaporation.

Next, the above mixed monomolecular film that remained on said aqueous phase surface was removed completely, and

dissolved in chloroform (10^{-3}mol/l) was poured onto said aqueous phase. By the same method as that mentioned earlier, a new functional monomolecular film alone and built-up films consisting of two accumulated layers were formed on the surfaces of the already prepared monomolecular film and monomolecular built-up films.

Again, the monomolecular film on the surface of the above aqueous phase was removed completely, and the same material as that utilized for the formation of the above first layers was accumulated at the same density and by the same method onto the surfaces of said second layers as a single-layer monomolecular film and as monomolecular built-up films consisting of the accumulations of 3, 5, 10, and 15 layers, and these were made to be the third layers.

Lastly, the substrates having the thin films formed in the above manner were placed in a vapor deposition tank, and after reducing the pressure in said tank to a degree of vacuum of 10^{-6} Torr temporarily and then adjusting it to 10^{-5} Torr, Al was vapor deposited at a 1500Å film thickness onto said thin films at a vapor deposition velocity of 20Å/sec in order to form back-side electrodes. After sealing the prepared EL components in sealing glasses as shown in the example of Figure 3, a silicon

oil that had been refined, deaerated, and dehydrated was injected into the sealing glasses by a conventional method, and 4 EL cells of the present invention were thus obtained. As a result of applying alternating voltage of 5V and 50Hz to these EL cells, electroluminescence having the unique colors of the used materials was achieved. The evaluation results are indicated in Table 1.

The above EL components of the present invention required low driving voltage and excellent luminescence brightness characteristics in comparison to the EL component of a conventional example, in which ZnS is utilized as the luminescence base.

Comparative Example 1

EL components for comparison were obtained in the same manner as in Working Example 1 except for utilizing only the compound A as a luminescent compound and for making up the components with single layers. The evaluation results are indicated in Table 1.

Table 1
Working Example 1

Accumulations			Driving Voltage	Brightness	Current Density
1st	2nd	3rd		(Ft-L)	(mA/cm^2)
1	1	1	5V, 400Hz	3	0.16
3	2	3	10V, 400Hz	11	0.13
5	2	5	10V, 400Hz	20	0.11
10	2	10	10V, 400Hz	18	0.09
15	2	15	10V, 400Hz	17	0.07

Comparative Example 1

Accumulations

3	10V, 400Hz	Less than 1	0.21
8	10V, 400Hz	Less than 1	0.1
12	10V, 400Hz	Less than 1	0.1
22	10V, 400Hz	Less than 1	0.09
32	10V, 400Hz	Less than 1	0.08

Working Example 2

An EL component of the present invention was obtained (Note, however, that the numbers of accumulated layers were 5, 2, and 5.) in the same manner as in Working Example 1 except for utilizing the following compounds, D, E, and F, instead of the compounds, A, B, and C.

The EL component was evaluated under the same conditions as those of Working Example 1. As a result, the current density was 0.13mA/cm² and the brightness (Ft-L) was 18.

4. Brief Explanation of the Drawings

Figure 1 schematically shows an EL component of the conventional technique obtained by the LB technique. Figure 2 schematically shows an EL component of the present invention. Figure 3 schematically shows the cross-section of an EL component of the present invention. /656

- 1 = transparent electrode; 2 = luminescent layer;
- 3 = back-side electrode; 4 = luminescent compound;

5 = luminescent compound; 6 = luminescent compound;

7 = sealing glass; 8 = silicon insulating oil;

9 = glass sheet.

Figure 1

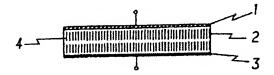


Figure 2

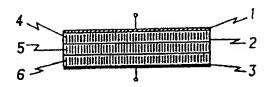


Figure 3

